

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 17-23 with the following amended paragraph:

Degradation of the optical transmission quality due to excessive attenuation or difference between dark current and photocurrent ~~photocurrent~~  $U$ , can be detected by the transmit/receive module  $S/E_n$  or  $S/E_{n+1}$ . During a low level at the optical data input of the module, a detected error is reported at the data output of the star coupler via a brief low impulse as an additional input signal  $Di_n$ ,  $Di_{n+1}$ .